THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under prices control and their prices are fixed /revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986, announced in September 1994. During the year 2005-2006, in respect of Scheduled formulations, NPPA has decreased prices of 39.49% packs, fixed prices for the first time in respect of 46.99% packs and there was no change in prices of 3.85% packs.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd.

Cheaper drugs for AIDS

1250. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure availability of expensive drugs at lower prices to AIDS patients in the country; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to reduce the cost of HIV testing for lower-income people, comprising the high-risk groups in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Anti-retroviral drugs used for treatment of AIDS are currently being given free of cost to nearly 35 thousand patients through 54 ART centres established in the country. 44 more ART centres are being set up during the current year to cover more patients for treatment of AIDS.

(b) Kits for diagnosis of HIV are being procured and supplied to state as commodity assistance. Nearly 60 lakh kits are being procured during

2006-07. These are made available at Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres, Antenatal Clinics, Blood Banks etc., for testing of HIV free of cost.

Disruption of OPD services due to strikes

1251. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of average number of patients visit to OPDs and emergencies in the Central Government hospitals, hospital-wise;

(b) the details of hospital services remaining disrupted due to agitation by doctors, nurses and staff during the period since 1998-99 till 30th June, 2006, indicating number of days of each disruption and steps taken to end it, at each instance, year-wise; and

(c) the steps contemplated, if any, by Government to ensure that the rights of the sick citizen to receive medical attention in Government hospitals without disruption is protected in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The average number of patients who visit OPDs and Emergency in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Safdarjung are as follows:—

Dr. R.M.L. Hospital	
OPD	Emergency
3700-3850	450-500
Safdarjung Hospital	
OPD	Emergency
6300	800
LHMC & SK HOSPITAL	
1824	
KALAWATI SARAN	
1260	